

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

IO-14 AGR-20 SWF-02 DRC-01 /205 W

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R 062211Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5390

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ES

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MOLINA LAUDS ROLE OF MILITARY, CRITICIZES
EXPLOITATION BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. DURING CELEBRATIONS MAY 5 MARKING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES, PRESIDENT MOLQNA
GAVE ADDRESS WHICH PRAISED THE MILITARY BUT SHARPLY CRITICIZED
THE WEALTHY COUNTRIES FOR THEIR ECONOMIC POLICIES TOWARD THE
LDC'S. MOLINA ASSERTED THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE BECOME
SOCIAALLY CONSCIOUS AND HAVE ADDED TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES
THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY AND UNDER-DEVELOPMENT. IN LATIN
AMERICA, HE CONTENDED, THE MILITARY HAVE BEEN FACED WITH THREATS
FROM THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT, FROM THOSE SEEKING "UNSCRUPULOUS
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PERSONAL POWER" AND THOSE ADVOCATING TOTALITARIANISM, BUT IN THE

MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES THEY HAVE CHOSEN THE DEMOCRATIC PATH. AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE (A-181), HE REJECTED CRITICISM THAT THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTES LITTLE TO GROWTH, CITING THEIR IMPORTANT MISSION OF GUARANTEEING THE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY ESSENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. THE PRESIDENT THE BLAMED THE "ECONOMIC IMBALANCE" OF THE WORLD ON THE "UNJUST AND EGOISTIC" TRADE POLICIES IMPOSED BY THE RICH COUNTRIES UPON THE POOR AND CONTENDED THAT ONE PRINCIPLE OF MANUFACTURED GOODS HAVE RISEN "DISPROPORTIONATELY" WHILE RAW MATERIAL PRICES HAVE BEEN HELD DOWN. CITING THE PETROLEUM PROBLEM SPECIFICALLY, HE CONTENDED THAT IT IS NOT JUST FOR THE LDC'S TO PAY THE HIGH PRICES SET BY THE OPEC COUNTRIES NOR IS IT HONEST FOR THE OIL COMPANIES TO MAKE EXORBITANT PROFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE LDC'S. MOLINA HELD THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE TO FIND COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS AND SAID THAT THEY SHOULD BE AT THE TOP OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED WITHIN THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WHICH BEGAN AT TLAELOLCO. MOLINA URGED CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST "EXPLOITATION, PATERNALISM AND ECONOMIC COLONIALISM."

3. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S TOUCH OF SIMPLISTIC SLOGANEERING AND HIS COMPLAINTS ABOUT "ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION" REPRESENT MORE THAN ANYTHING THE FRUSTRATIONS THAT MUST BE GROWING AMONG LDC'S WITH LIMITED COURSE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION AVAILABLE TO COMBAT SOARING INTERNATIONAL INFLATION. HIS REFERENCE TO LDC OPPOSITION TO THE INCREASE OF PRICES OF LDC RAW MATERIALS MOST LIKELY WAS AIMED FOR THE EARS OF THE CA DIGNITARIES AND PANAMA'S GEN TORRIJOS PRESENT AT THE OCCASION, ALL OF WHOM ARE THINKING

BANANAS THESE DAYS; IT WOULD ALSO APPLY TO HIS OWN OFTSTATED OBJECTIVE TO SEE COFFEE PRICES COMPENSATE FOR INCREASED PRICES OF IMPORTS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, HE CALL FOR COOPERATION UNDER THE NEW DIALOGUE REFLECTS A COMMITMENT TO THE NEW CHANNELS OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE US AND LA.
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